

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 050920
ORIGIN EUR-12

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APPROVED BY:EUR/NE:RLFUNSETH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO CINCLANT

UNCLAS STATE 050920

FOR ADMIRAL KIDD, ALSO FOR POLAD

FOL OSLO 0995 SENT ACTION SECSTATE FEB 27, 1978 REPEATED TO
YOU QUOTE

UNCLAS OSLO 0995

FOR EUR/NE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, OVIP, NO

SUBJECT: STEEN VISIT

REF: STATE 042912

1. STEEN VISIT HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PRESS TREATMENT
IN OSLO, STARTING WITH DAGBLADET STORY FEB 8, FILED FROM
HAMBURG, ON HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE US, WHICH OUTLINED HIS
PROGRAM IN US.

2. AFTENPOSTEN OF FEB 15 REPORTED ON STEEN'S TRIP TO
NORFOLK. THE SAME EDITION ALSO NOTED THAT SUCH VISITS TO
US WERE TRADITIONAL FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE SOTRTING'S FOREIGN
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AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, CITING SIMILAR TRIPS BY STEEN'S PREDECESSOR,
TOR OFTEDAL.

3. STEEN'S VISIT WAS ALSO GIVEN SHORTER NOTICE IN MORGENBLADET,
DAGBLADET, AND ARBEIDERBLADET DURING THE PERIOD OF HIS STAY
OR ON HIS RETURN. THE CHAIRMAN WAS INTERVIEWED IN FEB 17
AFTENPOSTEN ON HIS RETURN, WHERE HE REPORTED SEVERAL

SIGNIFICANT IMPRESSIONS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH
USG OFFICIALS. INTER ALIA, HE SPOKE GLOWINGLY OF HIS TALKS
WITH ADMIRAL KIDD AT NORFOLK; NOTED THAT US OFFICIALS
WERE NOT CRITICAL OF THE WAY NORWAY EXERCISED ITS SOVEREIGNTY
OVER SVALBARD; AND REPORTED THAT WHILE AMERICAN RESERVATIONS
ABOUT THE GREY ZONE AGREEMENT ARE WELL KNOWN, NO CONCERN
WAS EXPRESSED TO HIM DURING HIS TALKS AT STATE DEPARTMENT.
STEEN ADDED THAT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ASSURED HIM THAT
THE GREY ZONE MATTER WAS ONE FOR NORWAY AND USSR TO WORK OUT
BILATERALLY, AND THAT THE US DID NOT WISH TO BE SEEN AS
INTERFERING.

4. STEEN CONCLUDED HIS FEB 17 AFTENPOSTEN INTERVIEW BY SAYING
THAT HE LEFT THE US WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT AMERICANS
REGARD NORWAY AS A VERY RELIABLE MEMBER OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE.

5. TRANSLATIONS OF AFTENPOSTEN ARTICLES OF FEB 15 AND 17
BEING POUCHED TO EUR/NE.

6. COMMENT: STEEN IS OBVIOUSLY VERY PLEASED WITH HIS TRIP
TO THE US, AND PROBABLY HOPES IT WILL HELP HIM DEVELOP THE
CENTRIST, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC IMAGE IN THE LABOR PARTY THAT HE
IS AT PRESENT SEEKING. WE ARE AWAITING AMBASSADOR'S RETURN
TO DEBRIEF STEEN IN DETAIL. BREMER UNQUOTE VANCE

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